

1. On a new Species of Barn-owl from the Island of Viti-Levu. By Dr. G. HARTLAUB, F.M.Z.S.

[Received March 3, 1879.]

Mr. S. Cæsar Godeffroy, of Hamburg, has received of late by means of one of his collectors, Mr. Kleinschmidt, a fine adult pair of a Barn-owl, which had been shot by a Mr. Storek on the banks of Wai-manu, a confluent of the Rewa river, in the island of Viti Levu. These birds having been confided to my examination by Mr. D. Schmeltz, the well-known Curator of the Museum Godeffroy, the first thing I did was to compare them most carefully with certain other Australian and Oceanic species, with which I thought they might possibly coincide, viz. a fine series of the Lulu Owl (*Strix delicatula*) from different localities (Continental Australia, Tonga, Viti, Samoa group, &c.), as also with examples of *Strix personata*, and *Strix castanops*.

But the new Owl has nothing whatever to do with any of these species. I am, on the contrary, fully convinced of its being undescribed; and I propose to name it after the able and zealous curator of the ornithological department of the Paris Museum.

STRIX OUSTALETI, n. sp.

Mas supra in fundo ochraceo-fulvo umbrino-fuscus, maculis minutis albidis, obscure circumdatis, irregulariter longitudinalibus rarius notatus; disco in fundo albido rufescente lavato, intense fusco-rufescente cincto, macula anteoculari fusco-nigricante; subtus læte ochraceo-fulvus, maculis rarioribus subrotundatis vel subtriangularibus nigricantibus; hypochondriorum maculis nullo modo diversis; abdomine imo, cruribus crissoque immaculatis albidis, subcaudalibus concoloribus, albido-fulvescentibus, apicem versus maculis nonnullis parum distinctis; tarsi dimidio superiore rarius plumoso, pallide rufescente, inferiore subnudo; tectricibus alarum minoribus interscapulio concoloribus; remigibus primariis, eorum tectricibus scapularibusque ex parte dilute rufescenti-fulvis, fasciis quatuor angustioribus apicibusque largius nigricanti-fuscis, pogonio externo prope marginem fusco vermiculato, interno marginem versus sensim albicante, fasciis incompletis; scapularibus dorso proximis ad apices late fuscis, vix vermiculatis maculaque parva apicali alba; subalaribus albis, ex parte rufescentibus, maculis subrotundatis, nigro-fuscis; rectricibus dilute ochraceo-fulvis, fasciis 3-4 angustis nigricantibus; interstitiis sicut in remigibus non vermiculatis, apicibus albido fuscoque variis; rostro corneo-albido; pedibus pallidis, unguibus corneo-cærulescentibus.

Long. tot. circa 37 cent., al. 33 cent., caud. 13 cent., tars. 81 mill., culm. 38 mill., dig. med. (ung. excl.) 35 mill.

Fœm. minor, obsoletius tincta, pallidior; notæi maculis minoribus et minus distinctis, gastræi pro mole majoribus; subalaribus purius albis.

Long. tot. circa 35 cent., al. 31 cent., tarsi 29 mill.

The common Barn-owl of the Viti Islands is *Strix delicatula*, a species so *totally* different that it is unnecessary to enter more fully upon these differences. Suffice it to remark that the wings and the tarsi are *much* longer in our new species. This latter comes somewhat nearer to the light phase of *Strix novæ hollandiæ* (sive *personata*). But that is altogether a stouter bird, the feet and beak being much stronger than in *Strix oustaleti*, whereas the tarsi and the wings are proportionally longer in the new species. *Strix novæ hollandiæ* has the whole tarsi feathered with a thick white down; in *Strix oustaleti* the lower half of the tarsus is almost naked, and the upper very thinly feathered.

There are also many and very striking differences in the colours of the two birds. The minute whitish vermiculation on the upper parts of *Strix novæ hollandiæ* is entirely wanting in *Strix oustaleti*. The spots on the sides of the abdomen are more or less enlarged and bar-like in *Strix novæ hollandiæ*; they are of the same size and form as those on the breast and epigastrium in *Strix oustaleti*. The number of the dark bands in the primaries and the tail-feathers is six in *Strix novæ hollandiæ*, four in *Strix oustaleti*. The colours of the tail-feathers are very different in the two birds, the interstices being thickly mottled with brown and whitish in *Strix novæ hollandiæ*, fulvous and without any markings in *Strix oustaleti*. The apical part of the greater remiges is broadly mottled with whitish and brown in *Strix novæ hollandiæ*, whereas it is of a uniform dark blackish brown in *Strix oustaleti*.

The existence of *two species of Barn-owls* in so small an island as Viti-Levu is a curious fact.

The type specimens of this description are and will remain in the Museum Godeffroy at Hamburg.

2. On Female Deer with Antlers.

By EDWARD R. ALSTON, F.L.S., F.Z.S., &c.

[Received March 4, 1879.]

The occasional abnormal development of antlers in female Deer (outside the genus *Rangifer*) presents some points of interest, as bearing on the arrangement of the family *Cervidæ*, and on the probable evolutionary history of these weapons.

My attention has been lately turned to this subject by the record of such an instance in the Roe deer (*Capreolus capræa*, Gray¹), in the 'Field' of the 18th January; and I am indebted to the courtesy of the gentleman who shot it, Mr. John B. Fergusson,

¹ I may here note that the name *europæus* has been supposed to have priority over Gray's specific title, being sometimes quoted as from J. Brookes's 'Catalogue' of his Anatomical and Zootomical Museum (1830), a reference which has even found its way into Engelmann's 'Bibliotheca.' A copy of this list is preserved in the library of the Royal Society; and it proves to be merely a sale-catalogue, with no claim whatever to be regarded as a scientific publication.